

REMARKS

Claim Status

Claim 7 has been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 2, 5, 8, 11, 12, 14, and 17-19 are pending in the present application.

Claim 2 has been amended to incorporate the limitation from previous Claim 7.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 9, 10, 13, 15, and 16 remain withdrawn as a result of an earlier restriction requirement.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 2, 5, 11, 12, 14, and 17-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang et al. (U.S. 4,713,068), Scapin et al., Alikhan (U.S. 5,370,764), and Elder et al. (U.S. 6,107,537) in view of Nitikunkasem et al. (U.S. 6,048,549). Claim 2 has been amended to incorporate the limitations from previous Claim 7. As a result, Applicants submit that this rejection is now moot and that the claims are in allowable form, as Claims 5, 11, 12, 14, and 17-19 ultimately depend from Claim 2.

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Conclusion

This response represents an earnest effort to place the present application in proper form and to distinguish the invention as claimed from the applied references. In view of the foregoing, entry of the amendment presented herein, reconsideration of this application, and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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